

## Media Release

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### **Thelma Adams Johnson, CEO of Albany Community Together Is Georgia's 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year** *--Her Non-Profit Promotes Economic Development in Southwest Georgia--*

Thelma Adams Johnson, President & CEO of Albany Community Together (ACT) has been selected the 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year in Georgia by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Johnson will receive her statewide award from Terri Denison, SBA Georgia District Director, at an Atlanta luncheon on May 22 that is hosted by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle. She was nominated for her award by Tamatha Quartimon, a Business services Coordinator at the Arthur K. Williams Micro Enterprise Center in Albany.

Johnson's award recognizes her efforts to assist small businesses by supporting additional financial services for start-ups and existing small companies in the Albany area.

Albany Community Together is a non-profit agency that was created by a partnership between the City of Albany and the local banking community. It manages the City of Albany Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund and has an outstanding loan portfolio of \$1.4 million. These loans have helped create over 120 jobs recently in a 14-county area around Albany.

ACT participates in the SBA's Micro-Loan Program which provides loans of up to \$35,000 for working capital, equipment, such as computers for home-based businesses, and inventory. Her organization is also a Technical Assistance Provider for SBA Community Express Loans. These loans range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and feature reduced paperwork and a fast turn-around time. They can be used for start-up costs, expansions, working capital and equipment purchases.



*Thelma Adams Johnson of Albany, at right, received the 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year Award from Terri Denison, left, SBA Georgia District Director.*

Prior to joining ACT, Johnson served as a Regional Resource Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. She also worked with the City of Albany as an Economic Development Specialist. Johnson has a BS Degree in Accounting from Albany State University and a graduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She is a 2000 Graduate of Leadership Albany and a member of the Albany Chamber's Small Business and Economic Development Committees.

Johnson serves on the Advisory Board for Capital City Bank & Trust, the Board of Directors of the Trinity Baptist Church CDC and the Advisory Council for Career and Technical Education for the Dougherty County School System. She is an active member of the Greater New Birth Missionary Baptist Church of Sylvester, Georgia.

Johnson serves on the board of Georgia Micro-Enterprise Network, a statewide advocacy group whose mission is to provide assistance and support to entrepreneurial development agencies.

She also serves as President of Women of Unity, a non profit faith-based organization in Worth County, Georgia. Its mission is to assist women to understand how they may effectively organize to create positive change in their communities.